GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1031
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006
CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATION OF FOODGRAINS
Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for allocation of foodgrains to different States for distribution to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families under Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) whether the Government has not adopted the census data of 2001 for projecting population in the country for allocation of foodgrains under PDS;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken by the Government for adopting 2001 census data for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a), (b), (c) & (d): The allocation of foodgrains to the State Governments/UT Administrations for distribution to the BPL families under TPDS is made on the basis of poverty estimates of Planning Commission for the year 1993-94, based on the population projections of the Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families identified and issued ration cards whichever is less. The present scale of issue is 35 kg. per family per month.

In view of the mounting stocks of foodgrains, the Government, had approved certain measures to improve the offtake of foodgrains during November, 2000. One of the measures was that the allocation of the foodgrains for BPL families per family per month, may be made on the basis of population projection of the Registrar General as on 01.03.2000 instead of the earlier base of projected population of 1995. The population census for 2001 was not available at that time.

The matter of updating the number of BPL households, based on 2001 households census data was taken up with the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has not supported the proposal, as the poverty ratio has come down to 26% in 1999-2000 compared to the 1993-94 poverty ratio of 36%, presently being used for determining allocations.